Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

JEC PARIS 1933/34/35

TREASURY

INFO USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 223906

COGARD FOR POLAD

.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 10 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. KOREA

NYT'S HALLORAN AND GLOBE'S STORIN (S-N, 10/9) WRITE SIMILAR REPORTS ON CATHOLIC DEMONSTRATION FOLLOWING OUTDOOR MASS AT HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARY MARKING OPENING OF KOREAN HOLY YEAR. AFTER FIERY SERMON BY BISHOP KIM CHAE DUK, ONE THIRD OF 15,000 ATTENDING MASS UNCLASSIFIED

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FORCED THEIR WAY (ACCORDING TO HALLORAN) THROUGH POLICE LINES UNDER LEADERSHIP OF FIVE BISHOPS (INCLUDING AMERICAN THOMAS STEWART) DEMANDING RELEASE OF BISHOP DANIEL CHI AND END OF REPRESSION. REPORTERS NOTED

POLICE USING US RADIOS, GAS MASKS, BELTS AND TEAR GAS GUNS. STORIN SAYS DEMONSTRATION WOUND UP PEACEFULLY BY AGREEMENT WITH POLICE AFTER TWO HOURS STANDOFF, UNDER WHICH DEMONSTRATORS MINUS PLACARDS PERMITTED TO LEAVE SEMINARY GROUNDS.

BOTH REPORTS NOTE THAT ALTHOUGH PARK WARNED HE WOULD NOT TOLERATE STREET DEMONSTRATIONS, PROTESTERS FEEL THAT IMMINENCE OF FORD VISIT WILL SHIELD THEM FROM REPRISALS. LETTER TO FORD SIGNED BY 58 US MISSIONARIES (SOME OF WHOM TOOK PART IN DEMONSTRATION) ASKED PRESIDENT TO

SEEK RELAXATION OF PARK RESTRICTIONS ON DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS. HALLORAN NOTES ALSO THAT SMALL GROUPS OF STUDENTS HAVE BEGUN SIT-IN FASTS AFTER MONTHS OF FEAR AND APATHY

2. INDOCHINA

MCCOMBS (WP) REPORTS FROM SAIGON THAT ANTI-THIEU MARCH WHICH STARTED AS PROTEST FOR PRESS FREEDOM BY 200 NEWSMEN QUICKLY DEVELOPED INTO LARGER DEMONSTRATION BY "SEVERAL THOUSAND" PEOPLE CALLING FOR POLITICAL REFORMS. VIRTUALLY ALL KEY LEADERS OF PROTEST MOVEMENTS THAT HAVE SPRUNG UP DURING PAST TWO MONTHS WERE PRESENT, INCLUDING REV. THANH AND SEN. MAU, AS WELL AS MRS. NGO BA THANH, "A DOZEN" SENATORS AND DEPUTIES AND BANNER-CARRYING GROUPS. MCCOMBS CONTRASTS MARCH WITH SMALL DEMONSTRATIONS BY FRAGMENTED GROUPS IN SAIGON RECENTLY. POLICE THIS TIME SEEMED UNABLE TO KEEP LARGE NUMBERS OF SPECTATORS FROM JOINING MARCH THAT HAD NEW AIR OF FERVOR AND SPONTANEITY. POLICE CARRIED NO WEAPONS AND REPORTEDLY WERE UNDER ORDERS NOT TO USE VIOLENCE. AFTER THEY GAVE UP TRYING TO CONTROL MARCH, DEMONSTRATORS ROAMED FREELY IN FRONT OF NATL ASSEMBLY.

REUTER SAIGON SAYS NO INCIDENTS OCCURRED DURING MARCH, UNCLASSIFIED

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BUT CROWD LED BY BUDDHIST NUNS LATER SCUFFLED WITH POLICE, AND CBS-TV NEWSMAN HANEY HOWELL WAS FELLED BY KARATE KICK DELIVERED "APPARENTLY BY A PLAINCLOTHES POLICE AGENT" AS HE FILMED DEMONSTRATION. ADDS THAT HOWELL TAKEN AWAY IN AMBULANCE BUT NOT KNOWN HOW SERIOUS INJURIES ARE, THOUGH HOSPITAL SOURCES SAY NO BONES BROKEN. QUOTES WITNESSES THAT THREE OTHER FOREIGN NEWSMEN ALSO ROUGHED UP, APPARENTLY NONE SERIOUSLY HURT.

VC REPRESENTATIVE IN HANOI ISSUES PRESS STATEMENT, APPEALS TO OPPOSITION FORCES TO OUST THIEU IN INTEREST OF CARRYING OUT C-F. URGES SETTING UP NEW ADMIN THAT WOULD

"APPROVE PEACE, NATIONAL CONCORD AND WOULD APPLY THE PARIS AGREEMENTS" (AFP, NYT).

BOTH SIDES SUFFER HEAVY LOSSES IN COMMUNIST ATTACK ON GVN COMPANY POSITION 14 MILES SW OF HUE, ACCORDING TO MIL REPORTS. SAIGON COMMAND SAYS ATTACK REPELLED BUT OTHER MIL SOURCES SAY MOST OF COMPANY STILL MISSING (WP).

USDA SAYS SVN WILL GET 7.2 MILLION WORTH OF TOBACCO UNDER NEW FOOD FOR PEACE AGREEMENT (AP, WP).

LONG BORET TELLS UNGA THAT IT WOULD BE "PLAYING WITH FIRE" TO EXPEL GKR AND SEAT SIHANOUK'S GOVT-IN-EXILE SINCE MANY GOVTS ARE CONFRONTED WITH ARMED SUBVERSION WITH LEADERS LIVING ABROAD. ONCE PRECEDENT SET, "WHAT REGIME CAN BE SURE THAT A COALITION OF ITS ENEMIES WILL NOT SOME DAY EXCLUDE IT" FROM UN? ABOUT 60 OUT OF 138 DELEGATES REMAINED OUTSIDE HALL DURING ADDRESS, INCLUDING PRC; SOME DID SO TO REFLECT BACKING FOR SIHANOUK, WHILE OTHERS HAD BUSINESS ELSEWHERE OR "PREFERRED TO STAY AWAY" THOUGH NOT COMMITTED TO PRINCE. ASIAN SUPPORTERS OF GKR TRYING TO COUNTER CAMPAIGN WITH RESOLUTION THAT NEGOTIATIONS BE UNDERTAKEN BY CAMBODIANS THEMSELVES. NEW APPROACH BEING PUSHED BY MALAYSIA, INDONESIA, THAILAND, PHILS AND SINGAPORE, BUT "EVIDENTLY HAS THE SUPPORT" OF US. LONG BORET ALSO INVITED UN ENVOYS TO VISIT HIS COUNTRY TO PROVE THAT THERE ARE NEITHER US TROOPS NOR FOREIGN UNCLASSIFIED

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MIL BASES THERE. ADDS THAT HE IS "CURIOUS TO KNOW" IF OTHER SIDE CAN MAKE SUCH AN OFFER (NYT).

GKR COMMAND SAYS FANK KILLED 15 INSURGENTS IN CLASH NEAR SVAY RIENG, AND THAT FOUR ROCKETS FIRED INTO SOUTHERN PP WOUNDED TWO CIVILIANS. MIL SOURCES SAY SITUATION AT SIEM REAP REMAINS CRITICAL, WITH 50 INSURGENT BATTALIONS THREATENING CITY (REUTER PP).

GOVT SPOKESMAN IN VIENTIANE SAYS TWO COMPANIES OF RLG TROOPS STAGE MUTINY IN NW LAOS AND SEIZE SMALL TOWN OF HOUEI SAI, DEMANDING MORE PAY AND BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS. ADDS THAT AUTHORITIES NEGOTIATING WITH SOLDIERS IN EFFORT TO MAKE THEM GIVE UP AIRPORT ON THAI-LAOTIAN BORDER 210 MILES NW OF VIENTIANE (WP; CHITRIB).

3. CHINA

SENATE APPROVED WEDNESDAY DOS-USIA AUTHORIZATIONS WHICH INCLUDED AMENDMENT TO REPEAL 1955 FORMOSA RESOLUTION (REUTER, NYT; WP).

PHINQ ITEM PLACES IN 'DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH DEPT." GIMO'S MESSAGE --COMMENORATING ROC'S 63D ANNIVERSARY--REITERATING PLEDGE OF 'COUNTERATTACK". ARTICLE NOTES HE HAS MADE SIMILAR STATEMENTS EVERY YEAR SINCE FORCED TO LEAVE MAINLAND.

JETRO ESTIMATES PRC POSSESSES GOLD WORTH ABOUT 2.79
BILLION AT FREE MARKET PRICE; FIGURE BASED ON INFO
COMPILED FROM US CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER

SOURCES. SAYS PEKING BELIEVED TO HAVE HAD 566 MILLION TRADE DEFICIT LAST YEAR AND HAS SPENT 400 MILLION IN AID TO DEVELOPING NATIONS. SEES FOREIGN EXCHANGE DIFFICULTY IF PRC DOES NOT RELEASE GOLD (UPI, JOC; CHITRIB).

4. JAPAN

SUN'S SEIDEN IN TOKYO SUGGESTS UNEXPECTED NOBEL PEACE UNCLASSIFIED

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PRIZE AWARD COULD HARDLY HAVE COME AT MORE AWKWARD TIME FOR SATO, ARRIVING ON HEELS OF FUROR OVER LAROCQUE ALLEGATIONS THAT GOJ KNOWINGLY PERMITTED US SHIPS BEARING NUKES TO ENTER JAPANESE PORTS. NOTES THAT THOUGH ALLEGATIONS ARE UNPROVED, THEY HAVE RECEIVED WIDESPREAD ATTENTION, SENSATIONAL HEADLINES, AROUSING ANGRY DEMONSTRATIONS AND GENERALLY CASTING SUSPICION ON SINCERITY OF SATO AND TANAKA. OBERDORFER (WP) IN SIMILAR ARTICLE NOTES THAT NOBEL AWARD RECEIVED WITH DEGREE OF NATIONAL PRIDE TINGED WITH DISBELIEF ON PART OF MANY JAPANESE.

JOC (TOKYO) REPORTS NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK AND EX-IM BANK ARE TO PROVIDE NEARLY 46.8 MILLION DOLS IN LOANS TO FINANCE SALE OF EIGHT TRISTAR AIRCRAFT TO ALL-NIPPON AIRWAYS.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

5. CHINA

CSM'S MURARKA IN MOSCOW NOTES SOVIET REACTION TO PEKING'S LINE, AS REVEALED TO CANADIAN JOURNALISTS, THAT USSR THREAT HAS MOVED FROM CHINA TO WE AND US. IN REBUTTAL LAST TUESDAY, TASS CHARGED THAT IN FACT THE CHINESE ARE ONLY SAYING THIS TO FOREIGN VISITORS, BUT AT HOME THE PEOPLE ARE STILL BEING TOLD OF SOVIET PLANS TO ATTACK CHINA; AND "IT IS CLEAR THAT PEKING WANTS TO HAMPER THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND DETENTE." MURARKA OBSERVES THAT ACTUALLY THE CHINESE HAVE BEEN DEEMPHASIZING FOR SOME TIME SOVIET THREAT ON THEIR BORDER, AND THAT IT DOES APPEAR

THAT THEY ARE TAILORING THEIR REMARKS TO SUIT THE AUDIENCE.

FOR CANADIANS, THEY HARPED ON SOVIET THREAT TO WEST; BUT LAST MAY CHOU TOLD BHUTTO THAT SOVIET THREAT WAS GREATEST IN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT AND PERSIAN GULF AREA. NOTES THAT 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRC HAS BEEN OCCASION FOR CONDEMNATORY APPRAISAL BY MOSCOW OF CHINA'S INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLICIES, ADDING THAT WHILE FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES DOMINATE SUCH APPRAISALS, IT IS THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE IN CHINA WHICH MOST INTERESTS EXPERTS UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR EXAMPLE, SOVIET EXPERTS STILL ARGUE THAT SOME CHINESE QUESTION NEED FOR SUCH AN INTENSE QUARREL BETWEEN MOSCOW AND PEKING. THEY POINT OUT THAT AT 9TH PARTY CONGRESS LIN PIAO MADE BELLIGERENT SPEECH AGAINST USSR, AND IT WAS DURING HIS DEFENSE MINISTERSHIP THAT BORDER CLASHES OCCURRED. BUT EVEN HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CHARGED BY MAO WITH TRYING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW. THEREFORE, SOVIET EXPERTS SAY, APPARENT SOLIDITY OF ANTI-SOVIET FRONT PUT UP BY CHINESE LEADERSHIP SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE; IN ANY CASE IT WILL NOT LAST BEYOND MAO.

CONSEQUENTLY, QUESTION OF SUCCESSION IS IMPORTANT IN SOVIET EYES. SOVIET EXPERTS VIEW CHOU AS VIRTUALLY FINISHED, CONSIDER TENG HSIAO-PING AS IDEAL RESERVE MAN FOR TRANSITION FROM CHOU TO THE MORE MILITANT LEFT WING. ACCORDING SOVIET ESTIMATES, MAO PROBABLY WANTS TO HAND OVER POWER TO THOSE WHO CAME UP DURING GPCR, PRIMARILY THE SHANGHAI GROUP. BUT SOVIETS CONSIDER POWER STRUGGLE INEVITABLE.

6. VIETNAM

S-N'S ARBUCKLE (OCT 9) CITES OFFICIAL SOURCES SAYING ECON PROBLEMS IN TAY NINH PROVINCE ARE CAUSED BY SHORT-SIGHTED GVN POLICY, NOT BY DECLINE IN US AID OR US TROOP WITHDRAWALS. SOURCES SAY PROVINCE HAS LARGE STANDS OF COMMERCIAL LUMBER WHICH, IF EXPORTED, WOULD RAISE STANDARD OF LIVING CONSIDERABLY. BUT GVN HAS FORBIDDEN TRUCKS TO LUMBER AREA, RULING THAT IT IS LARGELY VC AREA AND REASONING THAT IF TRUCKS ALLOWED IN VC WOULD BENEFIT BY USING THEM TO BRING IN FOOD AND PHARMACEUTICALS AND TAXING THEM.

SOURCES SAY GVN ACTION HURTS S VIETS MORE THAN VC; LATTER ALWAYS HAVE RICE AND ANYTHING ELSE THEY NEED BECAUSE VN NATIONAL POLICE ALLOW GOODS TO PASS INTO UNFRIENDLY AREAS FOR PAYMENT AT CHECKPOINTS. MOREOVER, IF TRUCKS WERE OPERATING ON LUMBER TRADE, THEY COULD BE CHECKED IF POLICE WERE WILLING TO DO

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THE JOB. THEY ARGUE THAT WHETHER RICE PASSES OR NOT, VC WILL GET ENOUGH RICE FROM CAMBODIA AND OTHER LOCAL TAY NINH SOURCES.

OTHER SOURCES SAY TAY NINH'S ECON POSITION IS RELATIVELY GOOD, BEING JUST ABOUT SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD. THEY CONTRADICT STATEMENTS BY US OFFICIALS IN SAIGON TRYING TO GET ADDITIONAL AID FROM CONGRESS TO EFFECT THAT INFLATIONARY FACTORS, CONTINUED FIGHTING AND US PULLOUT CAUSED CONTRYWIDE RISE IN FOOD AND OTHER COMMODITY PRICES OF MORE THAN 70 PERCENT; THEY NOTE PRICE RISE IN TAY NINH IS ONLY 15 PERCENT.

7. JAPAN

IN CONTEXT OF THREATS OF KIDNAP OR MURDER BY TERRORISTS, REUTER LONDON FEATURES MEASURES TAKEN BY SEVERAL NATIONS - AMONG THEM JAPAN - TO PROTECT THEIR OWN AND FOREIGN DIPLOMATS, AND BUSINESSMEN (CSM).

8. PAPUA-NEW GUINEA

CSM'S TOOHEY IN BOUGAINVILLE REPORTS THAT PNG UNDER SOMARE HAS RENEGOTIATED AGREEMENT BOOSTING COUNTRY'S SHARE OF REVENUES DERIVED FROM HIGHLY-PROFITABLE MINING OPERATIONS OF RIO TINTO-ZINC. CORPORATION, THROUGH ITS AUSTRALIAN SUBSIDIARY, CONZINC RIOTINTO, TRIED TO GET GOA BACKING FOR ITS RENEGOTIATING POSITION, BUT CABINET INSISTED ON STAYING CLEAR OF ANYTHING THAT MIGHT SMACK OF TAKING SIDES. NEW AGREEMENT APPEARS TO HAVE LEFT ENOUGH SPARKLE TO ALLOW PNG TO REMAIN FAIRLY ATTRACTIVE TO OVERSEAS INVESTORS IN THESE TIMES OF HIGHLY NATIONALISTIC RESOURCES POLICIES. INGERSOLL

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BIEN HOA CAN THO DANANG HONG KONG NHA TRANG JEC PARIS

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